

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: We just haven't written what that verse will be yet. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I, obviously, rise in strong opposition to Senator Bernard-Stevens' motion to or amendment to kill this issue. I think it would be probably one of the worst things we could ever do in the eyes of the public. We came out with the idea of doing something. I'm not sure how we ought to finance this but certainly something can be worked out rather than kill the whole thing. And I guess because maybe tempers are getting a little bit short and people are getting a little bit irritated makes these things happen, but I don't think it's a very good move and I think we need to continue to work. We worked on some of these other bills until we worked them out. I think we can work this out. There certainly must be some way that the financing can be done. We promised we would do it, and to say now we're going to back out of the whole thing I think is silly. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I would like to indicate that I think that we do not want to misjudge the public's attitude towards this whole thing. And I think that I'm not wrong in saying that the public is very strongly supportive of wanting to limit campaign expenditures and wanting campaign reform. And I have never worked directly with initiative or referendum processes and will not do so. I will continue to work in the legislative process. But I think that we're making a grave error to tempt those people who use those processes to deal with this matter themselves. And if they do deal with it themselves, then we will lose control of it and then you may have a much more onerous law than you would ever want and it might be an unfortunate law. I don't see why for what is a relative...relatively small amount of money we do not...and for a relatively small amount of money that we probably will not spend, why we don't want to do this and just be done with it. I know...I'm a little hesitant to go back and describe the Campaign Finance Reform Act again because I know some of you who have been around have heard this on a number of occasions. But, for some of you who are new, I want to explain again why I do not think any of this money will be spent and it simply relates to the basic mechanism of the bill. By example, if one